

## Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 SCA-01 OPR-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /153 W  
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O 231222Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 3223

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UG UK

SUBJECT: USG-GOU RELATIONS: AMIN SAYS AMERICANS AND BRITISH  
PLANNING TO ATTACK UGANDA MILITARILY

REF: KAMPALA 3163 AND 3165

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL AMIN CALLED IN ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HENNESSY AND ME AT MIDDAY OCT. 23 AND HARANGUED US FOR ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES. HIS MANNER WAS CALM AND UNEMOTIONAL BUT HIS THREATS AND ALLEGATIONS WERE OUTRAGEOUS, AS USUAL. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM THE UNITED STATES AT 4 A.. THAT MORNING ADVISING HIM THAT THE AMERICAN CIA HAD REVEALED THAT AMERICAN AND BRITISH COMMANDOS WERE PLANNING TO PARACHUTE INTO UGANDA TO MAKE A SURPRISE ATTACK. THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION WAS A "HIGH PERSONAGE" IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY SOME LATIN AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO AMIN, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PLAN WAS FOR THE PLANES FERRYING THE COMMANDOS TO STOP IN

KENYA FOR REFUELING, WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOK, BUT ONLY FIVE MINUTES BEFORE HE HAD PHONED MZEE KENYATTA, WHO HAD ASSURED HIM NO SUCH THING WOULD BE PERMITTED. AMIN SAID HE HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT ANY PLANE CAPABLE OF FERRYING COMMANDOS THAT FLEW OVER UGANDA WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOU WOULD BE SHOT DOWN. FURTHERMORE HIS TROOPS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR COMMANDOS AND MERCENARIES AND THEY WERE TO BE ARRESTED IF DISCOVERED. THE GENERAL, IN LATER ELABORATIONS, SAID THE REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. INCLUDED A WARNING THAT THE AMERICANS, BRITISH AND ISRAELIS WERE PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE HIM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMANDO INVASION. HE REITERATED TO US SEVERAL TIMES A WARNING THAT IF ANYTHING OF THIS SORT, A MILITARY ATTACK ON UGANDA, HAPPENED IT WOULD BE VERY BAD FOR OUR NATIONALS IN UGANDA. HE SAID IF THERE WERE AN ATTACK HIS TROOPS MIGHT GO "OUT OF CONTROL."

2. AMIN COVERED A NUMBER OF OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST, WHICH I WILL REPORT IN A DETAILED SEPTEL. THE ABOVE WAS THE WORST OF IT. BOTH HENNESSY AND I GAVE AMIN CATEGORICAL DENIALS THAT THERE WAS ANY PLAN TO ATTACK UGANDA AND WE BOTH REMINDED HIM OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING OUR CITIZENS IN UGANDA. MY OWN INTERPRETATION OF THIS LATEST EPISODE IS THAT AMIN HAS DISCOVERED HE CANNOT SEND A CONTINGENT OF UGANDAN TROOPS TO FIGHT IN THE NEAR EAST BECAUSE THEY REFUSE TO VOLUNTEER AND IF HE ORDERS THEM THERE THEY WILL MUTINY OR DESERT, OR POSSIBLY EVEN OVERTHROW HIM. AMIN HAS THEREFORE MANUFACTURED A THREAT OF A FOREIGN INVASION TO EXPLAIN WHY HE NEEDS TO KEEP ALL HIS TROOPS HERE FOR THE PRESENT. (THIS INTERPRETATION IS BASED ON SOMETHING AMIN SAID, AS WILL BE EXPLAINED SEPTEL.) THUS, THOUGH WE NEED NOT TAKE AMIN'S ALLEGATIONS SERIOUSLY, WE MUST BE MOST CONCERNED OVER HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS TROOPS RE DANGERS FROM AMERICANS AND BRITISH. MY PRINCIPAL ACTION REQUEST AT THIS TIME IS FOR AN OFFICIAL AND CATEGORICAL DENIAL FROM THE USG RE HIS ALLEGATIONS, WHICH I PROMISED I WOULD GIVE TO AMIN, AND IT SHOULD BE COUPLED WITH ANOTHER REMINDER TO HIM REGARDING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROPER TREATMENT OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA. END SUMMARY.

KEELEY

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## Message Attributes

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